

Message Text

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PAGE 01 CARACA 07960 191353Z

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ACTION ARA-20

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ENRG, VE

SUBJ: FEA PETROLEUM STUDY IN VENEZUELA

1. VENEZUELAN MINISTER OF MINES AND HYDROCARBONS VALENTIN HERNANDEZ ON AUGUST 18 ISSUED THE FOLLOWING STATEMENT, PUBLISHED IN CARACAS PRESS AUGUST 19, (INFORMAL TRANSLATION).

2. QTE THE NATIONAL GOVERNMENT HAS BEEN DISAGREEABLE SURPRISED BY THE NEWS OF THE DIPLOMATIC-PETROLEUM INCIDENT WHICH OCCURRED IN CARACAS LAST JULY. ACCORDING TO THE NEWS REPORTS IN QUESTION, WHICH APPEARED IN THE NATIONAL PRESS AUGUST 17, THE NORTH AMERICAN LAWYER ROBERT KRUEGER WAS CONTRACTED BY THE FEDERAL ENERGY ADMINISTRATION OF HIS COUNTRY TO CARRY OUT A STUDY ON THE LAST PERFORMANCE OF THE MULTINATIONAL PETTROLEUM COMPANIES AND THEIR FUTURE ROLE IN A WORLD IN WHICH THE PRODUCING COUNTRIES, IN WHICH THE PRODUCING COUNTRIES, IN LEGITIMATE USE OF THEIR SOVEREIGNTY, ARE CONVERTING THEMSELVES INTO ESSECTIVE OWNERS OF THEIR PETROLEUM RESOURCES. THE OBJECT OF THE STUDY CONTRACTED

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PAGE 02 CARACA 07960 191353Z

BY THE FEA WOULD BE TO HAVE AT HAND THE NECESSARY

ALTERNATIVES TO ELABORATE A NEW ENERGY POLICY FOR THE UNITED STATES.

3. QTE THE NEWS REPORTS POINTED OUT THAT MR. KRUEGER HAD BEEN PREVENTED BY THE EMBASSY OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA IN VENEZUELA FROM HOLDING CONVERSATIONS WITH VENEZUELAN OFICICIALS ON MATTERS RELATING TO THE STUDY ENTRUSTED TO HIM. FURTHERMORE, THEY ADD THAT THE ATTITUDE TAKEN BY THE AMERICAN EMBASSY WAS THE RESULT OF RECOMMENDATIONS IN THAT SENSE WHICH WERE MADE TO HIM BY HIGH OFFICIALS OF U.S. OIL COMPANIES WHICH OPERATE IN VENEZUELA.

4. QTE AS PREVIOUSLY MENTIONED, THE FOREGOING INCIDENT AND THE CIRCUMSTANCES SURROUNDING IT HAVE CONSTITUTED A DISAGREABLE SURPRISE FOR THE NATIONAL GOVERNMENT.

5. QTE ON THE OTHER HAND IT IS WORTH NOTING THAT NO REQUEST WHATSOEVER BY MR. KRUEGER FOR AN AUDIENCE WITH MINISTER VALENTIN HERNANDEZ WAS RECEIVED IN THE OFFICE OF MINES AND HYDROCARBONS.

6. QTE IT IS OPPORTUNE TO SET FORTH THAT THE NATIONALGOVERNMENT HAS NO IMPEDIMENT WHATEVER FOR ACCEPTING THE VISIT OF MR. KRUEGER OR ANY OTHER AMERICAN OFFICIAL AND TO DISCUSS WITH THEM THE ENERGY PROBLEM OF THE UNITED STATES.

7. QTE FINALLY, THE NATIONAL GOVERNMENT WILL DETERMINE IF THERE WAS IN FACT INTEREST ON THE PART OF THE AMERICAN COMPANES WHICH OPERATE IN THE COUNTRQ IN PREVENTING MR. KRUEGER FROM VISITING AND HAVING CONVERSATIONS WITH VENEZUELAN OFFICIALS ON THE SUBJECT MATTERS MENTIONED ABOVE. IF THIS IS THE CASE, AN EXHAUSTIVE INVESTIGATION WILL BE CARRIED OUT FOR THE PURPOSE OF DISCOVERING THE REASONS WHICH MOTIVATED THE ATTITUED TAKEN BY THESE COMPANIES AND TO TAKE THE CORRESPONDING MEASURES. END QTE.
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